

# ***Lessons on 2 Peter: Steadfast Until the End***

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## **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

- SDA BIBLE COMMENTARY, VOL.7 - PGS 593-619
- THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY
- AA 51,52\*
- 1 PETER & JUDE\*

## **HISTORICAL SETTINGS**

- 2 PETER WAS WRITTEN AROUND AD 67
- PETER IS IMPRISONED IN ROME & SOON TO BE EXECUTED - NERO
- FALSE TEACHERS (NICOLAITANS), SCOFFERS & HERESIS WERE INCREASING & THREATENING THE CHURCH

## **NICOLAITANS**

- ORIGIN UNKNOWN
- IT IS BELIEVED BY SOME THAT NICOLAS, ONE OF THE 7 DEACONS OF THE CHURCH OF JERUSALEM (ACTS 6:5) WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE NICOLAITANS
- THE BEGINNINGS OF THE NICOLAITANS ARE APOSTOLIC
- REV.2:1-7 - THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS / AD 34-100 - "THOU HATEST THE DEEDS OF THE NICOLAITANS"
- REV.2:12-17 - THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS / AD 323-538 - "SO HAST THOU ALSO THEM THAT HOLD THE DOCTRINE OF THE NICOLAITANS"
- REV. 2:18-29 - THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA / AD 538-1798 "THOU SUFFEREST THAT WOMAN JEZEBEL, WHICH CALLETH HERSELF A PROPHETESS, TO TEACH & TO SEDUCE MY SERVANTS TO COMMIT FORNICATION, & TO EAT THINGS SACRIFICED UNTO IDOLS"
- 2 PETER - AD 67 - NICOLAITANS
- JUDE - AD 69,70 - NICOLAITANS

## **PARALLELS BETWEEN 2 PETER & JUDE**

- JUDE 10 / 2 PETER 2:12
- JUDE 8 / 2 PETER 2:10
- JUDE 16 / 2 PETER 2:18
- JUDE 4 / 2 PETER 2:1
- JUDE 7 / 2 PETER 2:6
- JUDE 9 / 2 PETER 2:11

## **THEME**

2 PETER IS PASTORAL IN NATURE. PETER EXHORTS THE SAINTS TO CONTINUE TO GROW IN GRACE & IN "THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD." HE ALSO ENCOURAGES THEM TO HOLD ON TO THE FAITH IN THE MIDST OF FALSE TEACHERS & APOSTACY & TO BE STEADFAST UNTO THE END.

Peter's "letters were the means of reviving the courage and strengthening the faith of those who were enduring trial and affliction, and of renewing to good works those who through manifold temptations were in danger of losing their hold upon God." - AA 517

## SUMMARY

- 2 PETER 1 - ENCOURAGEMENT TO PERSEVERE & GROW IN THE FAITH
- THE OBJECT OF CHAPTER 1 IS TO AFFIRM THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL, ON WHICH THE SAINTS HOPES WERE BASED, & THUS PREPARE THE WAY FOR THEM TO COMBAT THE ERRORS THAT THREATEN THE TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL IN CHAPTERS 2,3
- 2 PETER 2 - BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS (NICOLAITANS)
- 2 PETER 3 - SCOFFERS - AN AFFIRMATION OF THE 2ND COMING & AN EXHORTATION TO BE READY

## ANALYSIS

### 2 PETER 1

- VS.1-2 - INTRODUCTION - RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

"The first chapter of Second Peter is full of instruction, and strikes the keynote of victory. The truth is impressively forced upon the mind by the way it is presented in this chapter. Let us more abundantly recommend the study of these words, and the practicing of these precepts. " - Letter 43, 1895

*"2 Peter 1:1-3 quoted.* What a grand theme this is for contemplation--the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Contemplating Christ and His righteousness leaves no room for self-righteousness, for the glorifying of self. In this chapter there is no standstill. There is continual advancement in every stage of the knowledge of Christ." - Letter 43, 1895

### 2 PETER 1

- VS.3-11 - AN EXHORTATION THAT PERTAINS TO "LIFE & GODLINESS"

*"These words are full of instruction, and strike the keynote of victory.* The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are the rounds of the ladder. We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ's ideal for us. Thus He is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." - AA 530

"Having received the faith of the gospel, the next work of the believer is to add to his character virtue, and thus cleanse the heart and prepare the mind for the reception of the knowledge of God. This knowledge is the foundation of all true education and of all true service. It is the only real safeguard against temptation; and it is this alone that can make one like God in character. Through the knowledge of God and of His Son Jesus Christ, are given to the believer "all things that pertain unto life and godliness." No good gift is withheld from him who sincerely desires to obtain the righteousness of God. [SISTER WHITE THEN QUOTES JN.17:3 & JER.9:23,24]

"None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian character. By the sacrifice of Christ, provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ's character. In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, the Saviour showed that through co-operation with Divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God's assurance to us that we, too, may obtain complete victory." - AA 531,532

"Before the believer is held out the wonderful possibility of being like Christ, obedient to all the principles of the law. But of himself man is utterly unable to reach this condition. The holiness that God's word declares he must have before he can be saved is the result of the working of divine grace as he bows in submission to the discipline and restraining influences of the Spirit of truth. Man's obedience can be made perfect only by the incense of Christ's righteousness, which fills with divine fragrance every act of obedience. The part of the Christian is to persevere in overcoming every fault. Constantly he is to pray to the Saviour to heal the disorders of his sin-sick soul. He has not

the wisdom or the strength to overcome; these belong to the Lord, and He bestows them on those who in humiliation and contrition seek Him for help.

"The work of transformation from unholiness to holiness is a continuous one. Day by day God labors for man's sanctification, and man is to co-operate with Him, putting forth persevering efforts in the cultivation of right habits. He is to add grace to grace; and as he thus works on the plan of addition, God works for him on the plan of multiplication. Our Saviour is always ready to hear and answer the prayer of the contrite heart, and grace and peace are multiplied to His faithful ones." - AA 533

## **2 PETER 1**

- VS.12-15 - AN APPEAL TO "BE ESTABLISHED IN THE PRESENT TRUTH"
- VS.16-21 - THE VALIDATION OF THE GOSPEL –
  - VS.16-18 - HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
  - VS.19-21 - THE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY

"While exalting the 'sure word of prophecy' as a safe guide in times of peril, the apostle solemnly warned the church against the torch of false prophecy, which would be uplifted by 'false teachers,' who would privily bring in 'damnable heresies, even denying the Lord.' These false teachers, arising in the church and accounted true by many of their brethren in the faith, the apostle compared to 'wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever.'" - AA 535

"Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan." - TM 409,410?

## **2 PETER 2**

- VS.1-3 - FALSE TEACHERS
- VS.4-9 - THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED - 3 EXAMPLES / THE PRESERVATION & DELIVERANCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS - 2 EXAMPLES
- VS.10-22 - THE TRUE NATURE & TEACHINGS OF FALSE TEACHERS

## **2 PETER 3**

- VS.1-2 - PETER REMINDS HIS HEARERS OF HIS PREVIOUS LETTER, & BIDS THEM TO BE MINDFUL OF THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS & APOSTLES CONCERNING THE 2ND COMING
- VS.3-7 - SCOFFERS
- VS.8-10 - THE LONGSUFFERING OF GOD
- VS.11-18 - IN VIEW OF THIS, WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT WE TO BE?